

REMARKS

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner believes the claims are indefinite because they do not state the basis for the molecular weight.

In response, claims 25-28 have been amended.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-8, 20-23, 29, and 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,255,424 to Knauss.

In response, the Applicants have amended claim 6 to include the recitation “where at least one of said short-chain living polymer includes a functional group in addition to a living end.” Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While claim 6 has not been amended in this exact manner, Applicants nonetheless believe that claim 6, as amended, is allowable inasmuch as Knauss ‘424 does not teach, suggest, or motivate one skilled in the art to employ living polymers having functional units attached thereto.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 11, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knauss ‘424. The Examiner opines that one of ordinary skill in the art would immediately visualize at least the simplest dienes such as butadiene and copolymerize the same with styrene based upon a motivation to use alternative embodiments.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments that have been made to the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments presented herein, the Applicants believe that they have properly set forth the invention and accordingly, respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejections provided in the last Office Action. A formal Notice of Allowance of claims 6-11, 20-28, and 30-37 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner care to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

No new claims have been added and therefore no additional fees are believed due at this time. Nonetheless, in the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0925.

Respectfully submitted,



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